

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Youth Summer Art Camp at Historic Sahuaro Ranch Is Free

**GLENDALE, Ariz.** – Summer vacation allows children time to try new experiences. During July, children and teens, from ages 6-18, will have the opportunity to attend a unique Summer Art Camp at Historic Sahuaro Ranch, 9802 N. 59<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Three exceptional four-day workshops are being held in the Fruit Packing Shed on the Ranch grounds. The classes are free.

- Week One: “Making an Artist’s Book”

Carol Panaro-Smith is teaching “Making an Artist’s Book” from July 10-13. Open to high school students, ages 14-18, teens can come to either the morning session (9 a.m.-noon) or to the afternoon session (1-4 p.m.). The workshops will explore the artist’s book as a vehicle for expression. Unlike a blank handmade book, the artist’s book is content driven. It can provide the artist with a new way of presenting ideas. Participants will begin the process by creating a montage image using the Van Dyke and cyanotype printing processes. The format for the structure will be a simple origami-folded book. Once the montage is folded into a book form, it begins a narrative that will be further embellished with a variety of techniques. One could do Xerox transfer, stitching, cut out windows and several mixed media finishing techniques. The format for the book, along with the intuitive process of collage, creates a finished piece that both informs and illuminates the artist. No photographic experience is necessary to enroll.

Panaro-Smith is the Founder and Director of Alchemy Studio Workshops. Established in 1998, Alchemy Studio offers the highest quality fine arts workshops in the Phoenix area. She is a nationally-acclaimed artist whose work exists in many public and private collections throughout the country. She received an MFA from Arizona State University. Panaro-Smith has over 20 years of teaching experience, with a special emphasis in alternative photographic processes and mixed media.

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- Week Two: “Telling It Like It Is: Personal Essay and Monologue Writing”

Essayist, playwright and performer Tania Katan is presenting two sessions of “Telling It Like It Is: Personal Essay and Monologue Writing” from July 17-20. Ages 8-12 will attend the morning class, from 9 a.m.-noon. Ages 13-18 will go to the afternoon class, from 1-4 p.m.

This workshop will allow students to access their life experiences, observations and imaginations in order to write an inspired and inspiring personal essay or monologue. Participants can look forward to fun writing exercises, peer editing and sharing stories. The session culminates in a reading of the essays and monologues by the writers for their fellow classmates, family and friends.

Katan’s new memoir, “My One Night Stand with Cancer,” is now in bookstores. She is a regular reader/writer at Comedy Central’s Sit-n-Spin and the illustrious Fresh Yarn, the online salon for personal essays. She is also a member of the Authors Guild.

- Week Three: “Four Days of Folk Art and Storytelling”

Children will get glimpses of faraway lands during the July 24-27 sessions devoted to “Four Days of Folk Art and Storytelling,” taught by Christy Peutz, the Educational Coordinator at The Bead Museum in downtown Glendale. Ages 6-9 will attend the morning session, from 9 a.m.-noon, with older youngster, ages 10-13, participating from 1-4 p.m. Each day a different activity will be featured.

Day 1: Tibet and Arizona. Youngsters explore the grounds of Sahuaro Ranch, looking at birds, plants, and the sky; they pick up interesting objects along the way. Participants will journal key observations and draw sketches of important finds. Peutz will share information about the Tibetan culture and the history of bead use in that part of the world. Children will make individual banners based on the Tibetan prayer flag, which are thought to bring good luck, happiness and prosperity. Everyone will write a memorable dream or thought from the day onto their banner, then embellish it with beads and the found objects. The flags will hang in the Fruit Packing Shed until the end of camp to inspire the entire group.

Day 2: Memory Jars. All cultures have created ways of preserving information to maintain a rich and vital repository of the past. In Africa, the jars are a way to remember loved ones. The memory jar will become a sculptural scrapbook of experiences and thoughts. The jars will be decorated with colorful clay, beads and patterns, Participants will explore their own family tree, then write notes of poems to place in the jar, along with images for safekeeping.

Day 3: Creative Spirit and Warrior Figures. Figures have been used in many cultures and tribes throughout history for role-playing and storytelling or as symbols of self. Participants will enhance a figurative form to express their own creativity and tell their personal story.

Day 4: Beads of Power. Children will explore the world of beads through their symbolic and universal ways of communicating. The instructor will discuss how bead materials, colors and shapes can tell a story about who you are. Youths will create their own choker necklace using significant beads.

Puetz, a Minnesota native, graduated from the University of North Dakota with a BFA. She focused in fiber arts, art history and printmaking. Her experience in creating and exhibiting her beaded sculptures across the country has led her to public art commissions and artist-in-residence opportunities.

Registration for these workshops is taken on a first-come, first served basis. To insure a space or for more information, call Melinda Bergman at 623-930-3755. She can also be e-mailed at [mbergman@glendaleaz.com](mailto:mbergman@glendaleaz.com). The City of Glendale Arts Commission and the Arizona Commission on the Arts are sponsoring the art camp. Partial funding is coming from “A Night with the Artist” silent auction.

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